

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, September 28, 1880, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Langham Hotel, London, Tuesday, Sept. 28th, 1880. My sweet little wife:

I want to see you so much — and I won't stay here beyond tonight. Foggy smoky London does not agree with me at all — I have hardly been myself since reaching here or rather I have hardly yet recovered from the effects of that night-ride from Paris to London — and I long to be in the free air somewhere — where telephones and photophones are unheard of.

I have been headachey-ing myself over Oriental Telephone Company's business ever since I have been here and I suspect that Mr. Hubbard must be about disgusted with me by this time — although he is just as kind to me as he always is. However I shall keep on trying my best — and don't intend to agree to anything I don't fully understand — even though this may place me in a false position — sometimes. I don't see how we are going to get out of the difficulty in regard to Scandinavin, Holland, etc., and I dread the discussion of the whole matter — I fear the result as I am perfectly determined even if a family quarrel results — that my family interests shall be perserved there. A letter had been received from the Oriental Company which will press the solution of the difficulty and I am rather glad of it than otherwise — as I feel perfectly ill and worked out over the whole matter. Another thing I am afraid of — is the matters connected with the Volta Prize. Maurice went to Europe to enlarge the capital of the International Company for the purpose of operating in France.

They propose to enter France on the top of the Volta Prize — have a dinner for me and etc., & etc. Now I am nervous about the whole matter — as I cannot consent to the International having anything to do with France until all difficulties have been settled with

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that country. 2 If Mr. Hubbard were to organize a separate company in regard to France in the interests of the Trust I would go hand in hand with him — but to have the International go there under existing circumstances — will bring about the conflict I have come to America to avoid. I shall write to your father tonight — asking him not to add any fresh complications to the Gordian Knot we have to unravel.

Charlie is here and sends love. We are now dressing for a dinner at Mr. Bigelows.

Your loving, Alec.